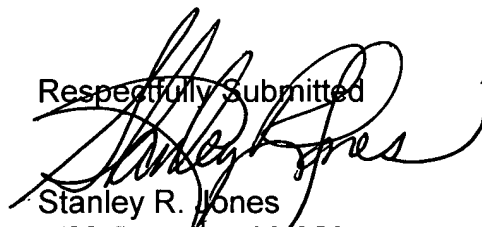


REMARKS

This preliminary amendment makes some grammatical changes to the specification in order to improve it form. No forbidden new matter has been added.

The specification has been made more precise. As originally filed, it was clear that the various brace elements may be fabricated from two or more telescoped members. As amended, it explicitly so states. Thus, the inventive concept accommodates several possible configurations of such telescoped members.

Respectfully Submitted



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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313 - 1450 ON: April 24, 2004 (DATE OF DEPOSIT)

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